



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
District of Maine*

100 Middle Street

(207) 780-3257

*6th Floor, East Tower
Portland, ME 04101*

*TTY (207) 780-3060
Fax (207) 780-3304*

For Immediate Release
September 11, 2007

Contact: Hélène Kazanjian
Assistant U.S. Attorney
Tel: (207) 780-3257

**Woman Sentenced by U. S. District Court Judge for Bank Fraud,
Aggravated Identify Theft and Access Device Fraud**

Portland, Maine: United States Attorney Paula D. Silsby announced today that **Paula Belknap Kelly** was sentenced today in U.S. District Court in Portland to 54 months imprisonment and five years of supervised release. Kelly was also ordered to pay \$53,655.48 in restitution and a \$500.00 special assessment. U. S. District Court Judge D. Brock Hornby imposed the sentence after Kelly pled guilty on May 31, 2007 to three counts of bank fraud, one count of aggravated identify theft and one count of access device fraud.

Court records reflect that Paula Kelly executed a scheme in Maine to commit bank fraud and access device fraud. Specifically Kelly and her husband Howard Kelly, created fraudulent identification documents using the names of other individuals. Using the fraudulent identification documents, Kelly and her husband were able to open bank accounts at Kennebunk Savings Bank, Bank of America and TD Banknorth. Between the dates of October 2005 and December 2005, Kelly and her husband negotiated checks from those accounts. Additionally Kelly and her husband negotiated counterfeit payroll checks at Maine Bank and Trust using false identities. Finally Kelly obtained an MBNA credit card using a false identity and purchased numerous items from vendors in Maine and New Hampshire. The Kellys were arrested on May 9, 2006 in Epson, NH for charges pending in other jurisdictions. Following their arrest, federal authorities executed search warrants of their vehicle, a camper and a New Hampshire Storage facility, finding cash, documentary evidence and some of the items purchased.

United States Attorney Paula Silsby praised the United States Postal Service and the York County Sheriff's Department for their investigation of this matter.

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